

NAGAOKA -- 09/978,543
Attorney Docket: 008312-0283791

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15 are pending. By this Amendment claim 1 is amended and 16 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the amendment and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the objection.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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